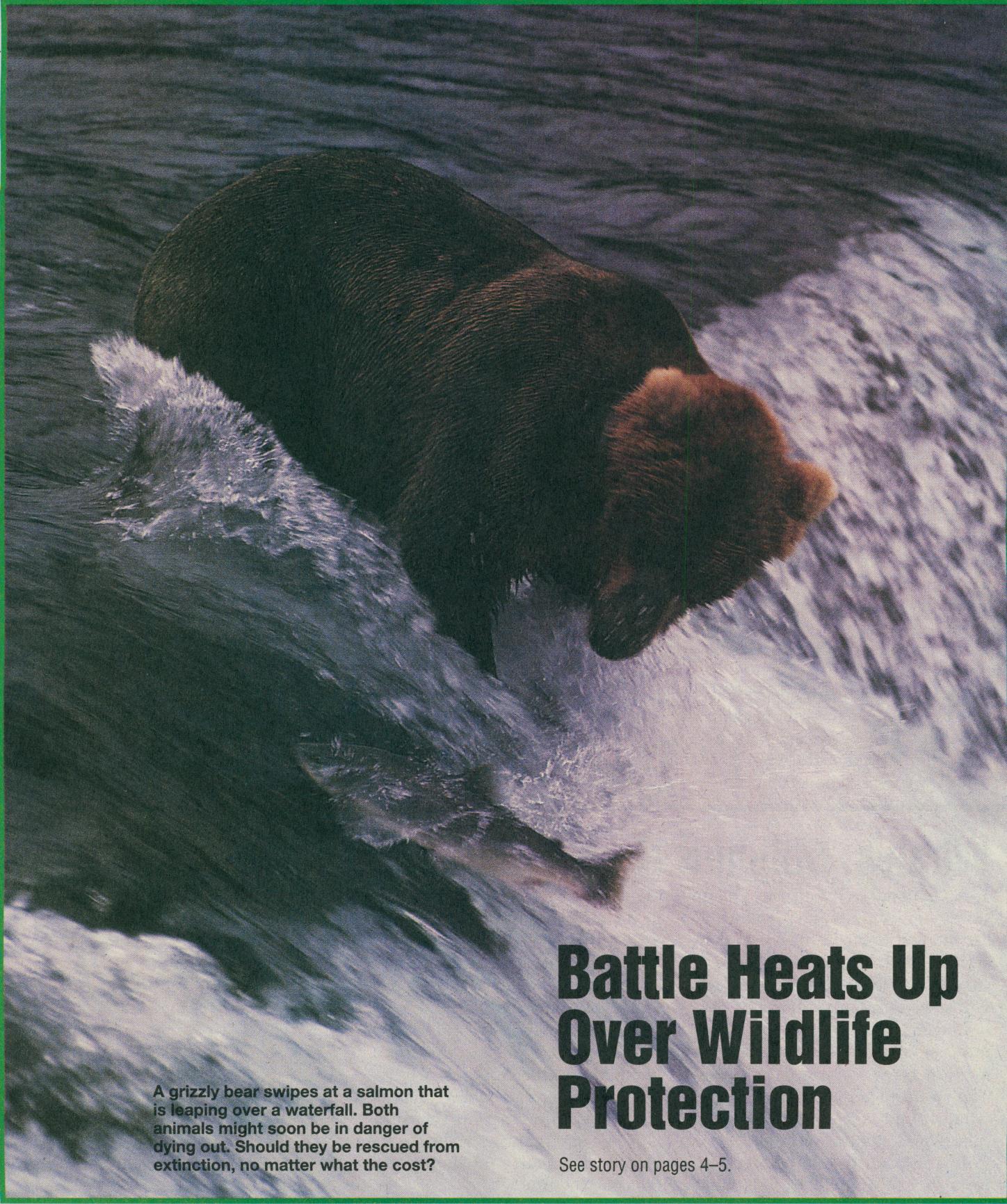


Volume 46
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Weekly Reader®

Senior Edition



A grizzly bear swipes at a salmon that is leaping over a waterfall. Both animals might soon be in danger of dying out. Should they be rescued from extinction, no matter what the cost?

Battle Heats Up Over Wildlife Protection

See story on pages 4-5.

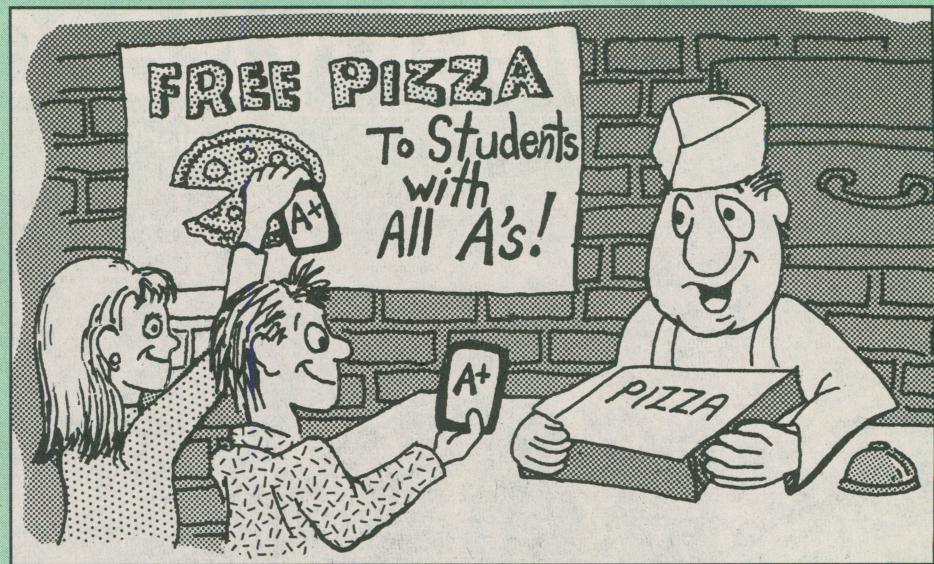
U.S. To Stop Producing Some Nuclear Weapons

President George Bush has a plan to slash by half the number of nuclear weapons in the United States and the former Soviet Union. His plan calls for the United States to stop making some nuclear weapons.

Bush wants to eliminate the most dangerous nuclear weapons—missiles with more than one warhead that are fired from land. His plan wouldn't end the arms race, but it would greatly reduce the threat of nuclear war, experts say. (See *Weekly Reader Senior Edition*, Issue 10, Main News.)

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia answered President Bush's proposal by proposing even bigger nuclear-weapons cuts. Yeltsin also said the eleven nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) would stop aiming nuclear missiles at U.S. cities or military targets.

The United States and the CIS want to cut nuclear arms because they don't feel as threatened by each other as they did when the Soviet Union was a superpower.



Should Kids Get Rewards For Good Grades?

Some kids who earn A's in school get free pizzas, free tapes, and even extra days off.

Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Mich., gives prizes to kids with good grades. Here's how the program works.

Students who earn all A's receive gold cards; students with A's and B's receive red cards; and students with A's, B's, and C's receive white cards.

Kids get different rewards depending on which color cards they carry. Kids with gold cards receive many items, such as free meals at restaurants and free tapes at music stores. A kid with a

gold card and perfect attendance gets a \$50 savings bond and a free school jacket. Kids with red or white cards get fewer rewards than kids with gold cards get.

Willow Run High officials say the program works. Daily attendance has jumped from 85 percent to 91 percent since 1989, when the program began. Student scores on tests for college also have improved.

But some teachers and parents say using gifts to reward kids for grades is bribery. They say bribery sends kids the wrong message by emphasizing rewards rather than knowledge itself.

Whales, Dolphins Named Citizens

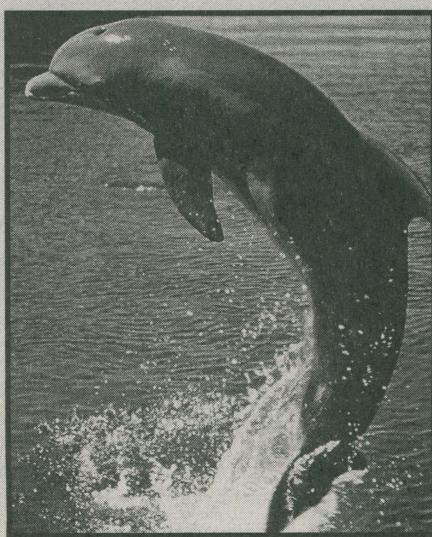
A California city on the Pacific Coast has some new citizens that are more at home in the ocean than on land. The city of Malibu recently gave some rights of citizens to dolphins, whales, and porpoises.

Making these animals citizens may seem silly, but officials in Malibu have a serious purpose. They want to help protect dolphins, whales, and porpoises from being mistreated, hunted, or killed.

In the past, people fishing with nets off Malibu's coast were

allowed to shoot dolphins that got in their way. Now anyone shooting a dolphin will be arrested and punished, though not as harshly as someone who kills a person.

The officials' goal is to have the ocean off Malibu's 27-mile coastline declared a *sanctuary*—or protected area—for dolphins, whales, and porpoises. Commercial fishing would be banned from the area. Officials say granting rights to the marine mammals is a step toward creating the sanctuary.



AP/Wide World

Deadly Disease Makes a Comeback

U.S. health officials are worried about an alarming increase in the number of cases of a disease called *tuberculosis*, or TB.

TB once caused more than 100,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. But the number of TB deaths began to drop in the late 1940s, when new anti-TB drugs were found.

Now a drug-resistant, deadly form of TB is showing up in many patients. In some places, death rates have been higher than 80 percent for people who have caught the disease. Health officials say the

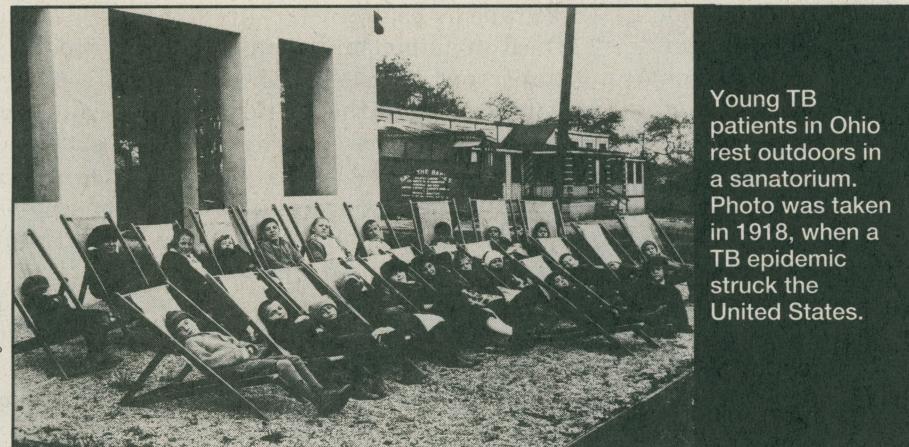
number of reported cases of TB is at its highest level in 23 years.

TB is spread when an infected person coughs and people nearby inhale the TB bacteria. The disease spreads most rapidly when people are crowded together. Many of the cases that have been reported recently have been among prisoners.

The disease most often attacks the lungs and makes breathing difficult. (See diagrams.) TB can also damage the kidneys, the spine, the digestive tract, and the lining of the heart.

Early detection of TB is important, doctors say. TB treatment can take months. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, TB sufferers were sent away for long stays in special hospitals called *sanatoriums*. Confining those infected with TB also helped to stop the spread of the disease. Some health officials say that if TB becomes even more widespread, patients may once again have to be confined in sanatoriums.

Doctors say that people with healthy immune systems can usually fight off TB. (See poster-sized supplement, "How the Body Fights Disease.") But a person with a weakened immune system, such as an AIDS patient or a person who abuses drugs or alcohol, has a tougher time fighting off disease.



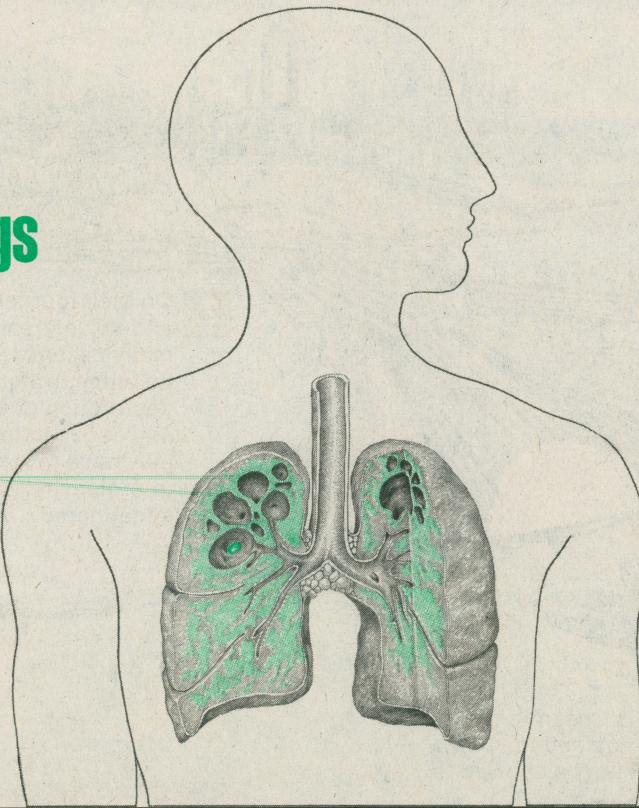
Young TB patients in Ohio rest outdoors in a sanatorium. Photo was taken in 1918, when a TB epidemic struck the United States.

THINK & DISCUSS

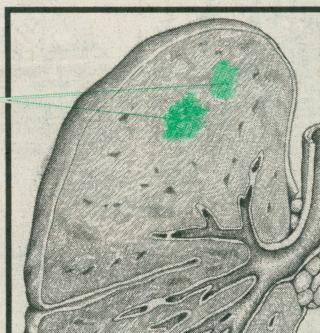
Which disease, do you think, might be likely to spread more rapidly, TB or AIDS? Explain your answer.

How TB Attacks The Lungs

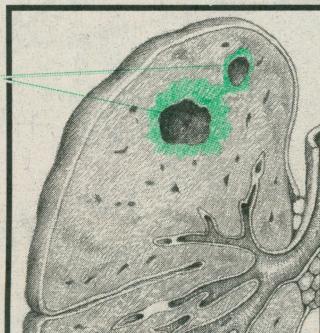
TB germs eat away at lung tissue and leave holes in the lungs.



1. Small hard lumps form inside the lungs.



2. Lumps change into holes.



Battle Heats Up Over Wildlife Protection

• The northern spotted owl, a bird that is in danger of dying out, lives only in the old-growth forests of the northwestern United States. Last year, to protect the owl, the Federal Government declared 8.2 million acres of these forests off-limits to logging. The timber industry says that this decision will mean that about 130,000 loggers will be out of work and that many logging towns in the Northwest will become ghost towns.

• One species of Pacific salmon was just added to the U.S. list of endangered animals, and four more salmon species might soon be added to the list. This change will mean many industries will have to take action to protect the salmon. These actions could cost industry and consumers. (See illustration below.)

• Government recovery plans have helped the bald eagle, the whooping crane, the Florida alligator, and other endangered animals to make comebacks. But rescue plans often have high price tags. Last year, for example, the Government spent about \$6 million on a rescue plan for the grizzly bear, and \$4 million on the Florida panther. So far, the recovery program for the California condor has cost \$26 million.

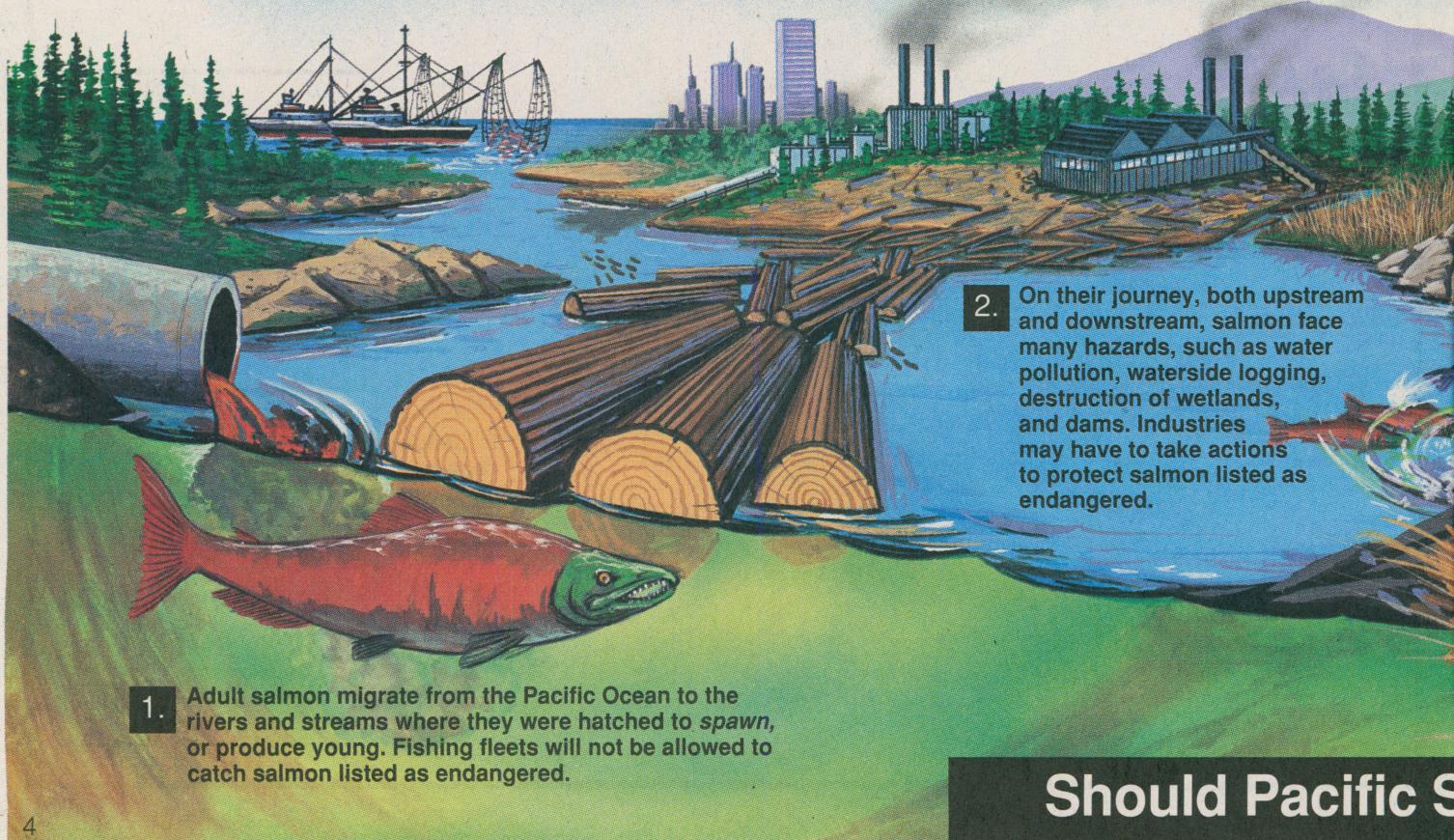
How high a price are Americans willing to pay to rescue wildlife from extinction? Are people's needs and wants more important than the protection of wildlife? These questions are the focus of a battle that is about to begin in Congress over whether to renew the Endangered Species Act.

Both opponents and supporters of the law say it is one of the toughest wildlife protection laws in the world. Opponents of the law say it is far too tough, and supporters say it needs to be even tougher.

What Is the Endangered Species Act?

The Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, gives the Government the power to protect endangered and threatened animals and plants. An *endangered* animal or plant is one that is in danger of becoming extinct in all or part of its range. A *threatened* animal or plant is one that shows signs of becoming endangered in the near future. As of 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed nearly 1,200 species of animals and plants as either endangered or threatened. Six hundred of these species are in the United States. (See graph on page 8.)

Once an animal or a plant is listed as endangered or threatened, no one is allowed to capture, harm, or kill it. No one in the United States is allowed to trade in endangered species that live outside the United States. The Endangered Species Act also gives the Federal Government the power to protect the habitats of endangered wildlife. If a habitat is the only place where an animal can live, the Government can declare it a *critical habitat*. For example, the Government declared some of the old-growth forest where the northern spotted owl lives as its critical habitat, a decision that has outraged logging communities of the Northwest.



Should Pacific S



Plans to save the Florida panther cost \$4 million last year alone.



Saving the northern spotted owl might mean that thousands of loggers will lose their jobs.

"Preservation of the spotted owl is a worthy goal," says U.S. Senator Slade Gorton of Washington State. But, he adds, "If the choice is . . . between setting aside a portion of our habitat for a small woodland creature . . . or the hardworking families which form the backbone of my state's rural communities and timber industry, I will choose people."

Environmentalists say that protecting the spotted owl is a way of preserving a whole ecosystem, the Pacific old-growth forest. They favor expanding the Endangered Species Act or passing new laws that protect entire ecosystems, not just individual species. Other ecosystems that are in serious danger in the United States, they say, include wetlands, deserts, and tall-grass prairies.

Should Wildlife or People Come First?

"As we pour more concrete, cut more forests, and build more dams, we restrict species to smaller and smaller areas," says a Government biologist.

Conflicts over whether to put the interests of wildlife or people first are likely to grow as people take up more space in the United States, say most experts. Opponents of the Endangered Species Act want new wildlife protection rules that require the

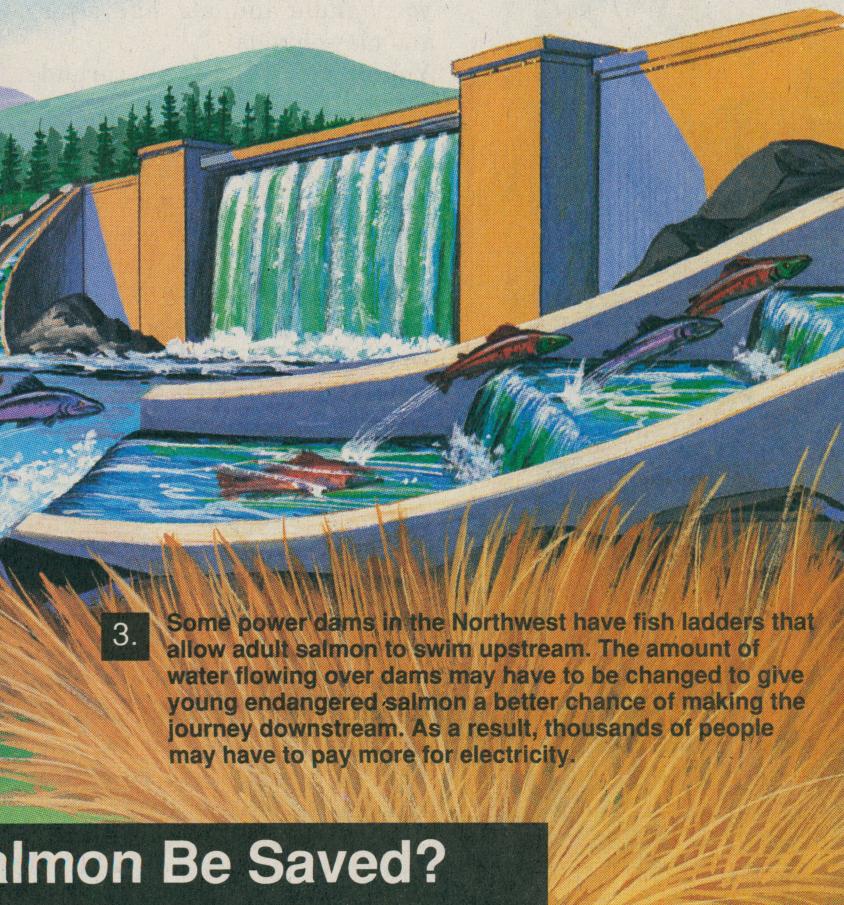
Government to avoid infringing on private-property rights.

But environmentalists say that such rules would put wildlife in even more serious danger than it is now. They say that animal and plant species are disappearing at a much faster rate than at any time in recent history. Many more animals and plants would have been lost by now, environmentalists say, if the Endangered Species Act had not been in effect. They point out that 41 percent of the animals and plants on the endangered-species list are stable or increasing in numbers because of efforts to save them.

Critics of the Endangered Species Act say it hasn't worked very well. In the nearly 20 years since the law was passed, only 16 species have made strong enough comebacks to be taken off the list of endangered wildlife. These critics say that the Endangered Species Act causes needless economic hardship for people.

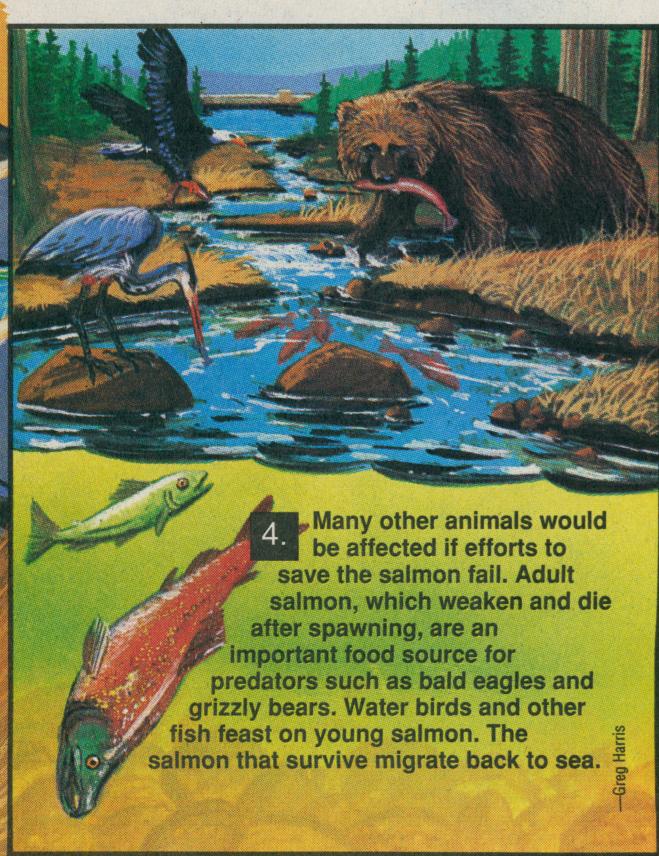
THINK & DISCUSS

It's time to take a stand. Do you think Congress should renew the Endangered Species Act? Should the law be changed? If so, how?



3. Some power dams in the Northwest have fish ladders that allow adult salmon to swim upstream. The amount of water flowing over dams may have to be changed to give young endangered salmon a better chance of making the journey downstream. As a result, thousands of people may have to pay more for electricity.

Salmon Be Saved?



4. Many other animals would be affected if efforts to save the salmon fail. Adult salmon, which weaken and die after spawning, are an important food source for predators such as bald eagles and grizzly bears. Water birds and other fish feast on young salmon. The salmon that survive migrate back to sea.

Greg Harris

Boy Loses Both Arms But Fights To Survive

One cold morning, 18-year-old John Thompson was doing chores on his family's farm in North Dakota. He decided to use a machine to unload barley from a truck—something he had done many times. But this time he slipped as he switched on the machine. In a second, the spinning machine ripped off both his arms.

John doesn't recall feeling pain or panic. He staggered 400 yards from the barn to his house. No one was home.

Once inside, John held a pen in his teeth and tapped out his aunt's number on the push-button phone. His aunt called an ambulance, then drove to John's house. She and John waited 30 minutes for the ambulance. John sat in the bathtub so he wouldn't bleed on the carpets.

John told the ambulance crew where to find plastic bags and ice to pack his arms. He was flown to a

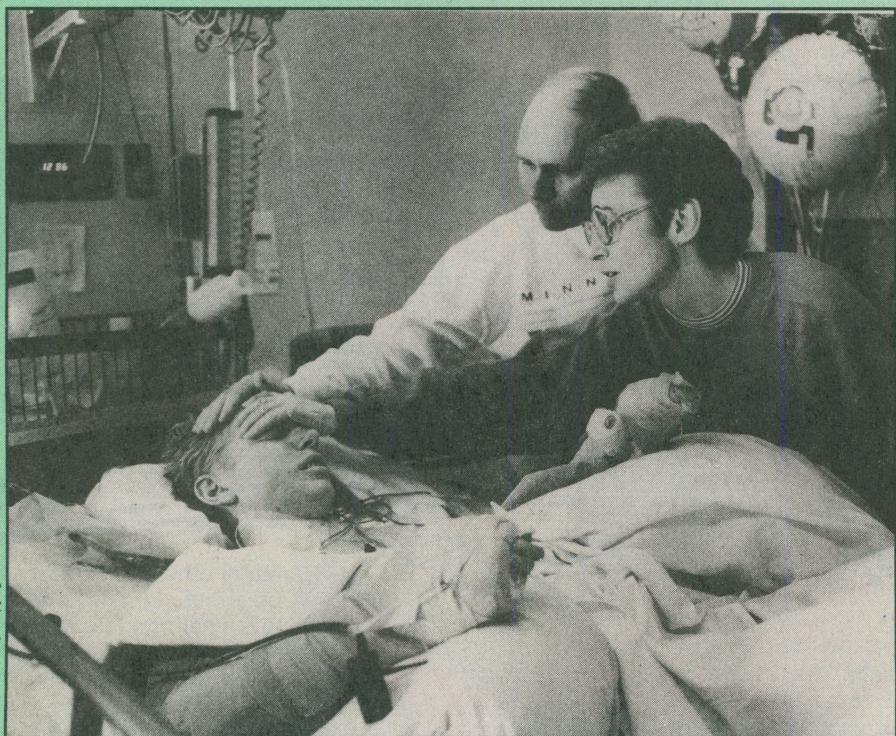
hospital in Minneapolis, Minn., for surgery. Doctors there worked six hours to reattach his arms. The operation was one of the few successful attempts to reattach two arms.

Now recovering, John insists that what he did was no big deal.

"I'm grateful for everyone's prayers and everything, but anyone would have done what I did," he says. "You do what you have to do."

John has feeling in his upper arms but none in his fingers yet. He will need more surgery and years of physical therapy to try to regain the use of his hands, doctors say. They aren't sure whether he will ever be able to use his fingers for tasks such as writing.

Doctors say John didn't bleed to death after his accident because the cut arteries in his body closed off naturally. Doctors say the only way they can explain this happening is to call it a miracle.



John Thompson raises his left arm to show how well he is doing three weeks after surgery to reattach both his arms, which were ripped off in a farm accident.



Why Should You Keep Clean?

By Pat Fosarelli, M.D.
Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Did you know that there are medical reasons to stay clean? Here are some of them.

- You're more likely to get certain skin rashes and skin infections if your skin isn't clean. You should wash your hands before you eat, after you use the bathroom, after you handle animals, and after you play outside.
- You're more likely to spread germs if your fingernails are dirty. Always keep your fingernails clean. If you get a hangnail, clip it; don't bite it or rip it off.
- Dirty hair and a dirty scalp harbor germs too. Wash your hair as often as necessary to keep it clean. Dandruff doesn't mean your hair is dirty. Dandruff is dead scalp cells that your body is trying to get rid of. To get rid of dandruff, try using a dandruff shampoo.
- If you don't keep your teeth and gums clean and healthy, you're more likely to have problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. If you want to have healthy teeth and gums, you should floss your teeth as well as brush them at least twice a day. And while you're at it, brush your tongue; it can also hold germs and food particles.



—Vilma Ortiz

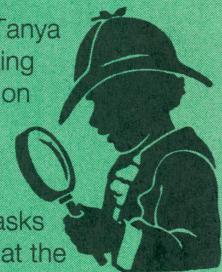
Fascinating Facts About EXTINCT ANIMALS

- The dodo was a bird with wings too small to lift its pudgy body off the ground. It lived on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. When Dutch explorers came to the island in 1598, they put the meaty dodo on their menu. By 1700, the dodo was extinct.
- The fierce Tasmanian wolf once roamed the island of Tasmania, off the coast of Australia. The 5-foot-long wolf was a *marsupial*, an animal that carries babies in its pouch. The wolf—also called the Tasmanian tiger—had a powerful set of teeth and jaws that opened very wide. It preyed on chickens and sheep, and that proved to be its downfall. To stop the predators, farmers hunted the wolves, killing off nearly all of them by 1930. Three years later, the last Tasmanian wolf died in a zoo.

- The first Europeans who came to North America found millions of passenger pigeons. The pigeons were good to eat, so they were shot, trapped with nets, and even clubbed to death. The supply of pigeons seemed endless. But during the 1800s, the population of North America rose, and forests where pigeons lived vanished. Around 1900, the last wild pigeon was shot. Martha, the sole surviving pigeon, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.
- Steller's sea cow was a huge, gentle sea creature that grew up to 30 feet long and had tiny ears and wrinkled skin. It had no teeth and used the plates of horn in its gums to grind up the plants it ate. Friendly to humans, it provided many meals for sailors. The last sea cow was killed in 1768.

Senior Sleuths

Senior Sleuths Tanya and Nick are working on a class project on endangered species. The phone rings, and Chief Henderson asks them to meet him at the Sleepytime Motel.



"Sleuths, I got a call from the owner of this motel," the Chief says. "A guest claims she was robbed in her room, and now she wants to sue."

The sleuths meet the victim, Sue U. Oweme.

"Tell us what happened," Tanya says.

"It was terrible," says Sue. "A man wearing a ski mask came up behind me as I was going into my room. He grabbed my purse, which contains every cent I have, and pushed me into the room and ran."

"And what did you do then?" Nick asks.

"I went to the window. I could see the thief about 50 yards away, running across the parking lot to the woods," Sue says.

"He had brown hair and a big scar on his cheek," she adds. "I was so upset, but I managed to go to the pay phone in my room and call my husband—and my lawyer. I'm going to sue the motel."

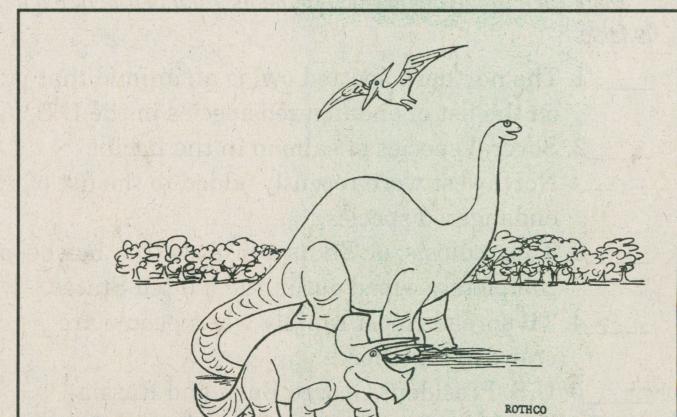
"Chief, I think we can forget about a lawsuit," Nick says. "Mrs. U. Oweme's story is full of holes."

Why does Nick doubt Sue U. Oweme's story?



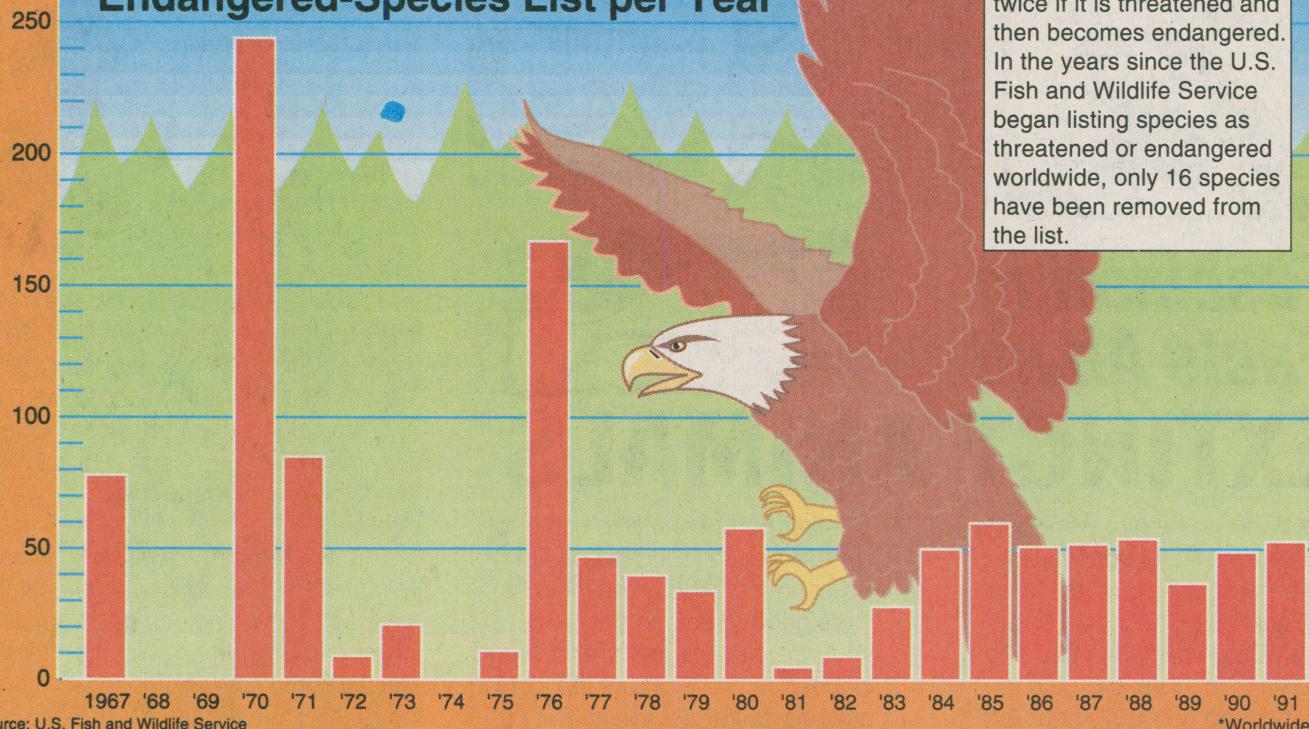
Which President . . .

. . . was the largest of all the Presidents? This president was so large that he once became stuck in the White House bathtub.



'As long as we exercise and keep taking the anti-extinction pills, I figure we should make it through the Jurassic period.'

Numbers of Species Placed on Endangered-Species List per Year*



—Bob Italiano

Graph Reading

Underline the word, words, or number that best completes each statement.

- In (two, three, four) separate years, no animals or plants were added to the endangered species list.
- The U.S. list of endangered and threatened species includes animals and plants (*in the United States only, only outside the United States, from all over the world*).
- The two years in which there was the greatest difference in the number of animals and plants added to the list were (*1969 and 1970, 1970 and 1971, 1975 and 1976*).

- The year in which the greatest number of species was added to the list was (*1970, 1971, 1976*).
- To find the total number of species placed on the endangered species list during the period shown on the graph, you would (*add the numbers represented by each bar, multiply the largest number represented by one bar times 25*).

THINK ABOUT THE GRAPH

In the period shown on the graph, 16 animals and plants were removed from the list. For what two reasons could an animal or plant be removed?

News Comprehension

Mark each of the following statements T if it is true or F if it is false.

- ____ 1. The northern spotted owl is an animal that is on the list of endangered species in the U.S.
- ____ 2. Several species of salmon in the Pacific Northwest were recently added to the list of endangered species.
- ____ 3. Tuberculosis, or TB, is a disease that has been completely wiped out in the United States.
- ____ 4. TB spreads most rapidly when people are crowded together.
- ____ 5. U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin recently announced new cuts in nuclear weapons.

News Vocabulary

Underline the word used in this issue that best completes each statement.

- An animal that is in danger of becoming extinct in all or part of its range is named by the Federal Government as (*endangered, extinct, threatened*).
- An animal that shows signs of becoming endangered in the near future is named by the Government as (*endangered, threatened, recovered*).
- A habitat that is the only place an animal can live may be named by the Federal Government as a (*critics, crucial, critical*) habitat.
- A special kind of hospital for tuberculosis (TB) sufferers is called a (*sanitarium, sanatorium, sanctuary*).